

Attendance: Jim Sahr, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Ken Kirby, Diane McWhorter, Lucy Kingsley, Sue Theolass. Other participants: Bill Wright, Deane Morrow      Excused: Kim Allen, Anita Parish

Scribe: Diane McWhorter

Minutes Approval: Approve the minutes (April 17, 2013) (Jim/Lucy) All in favor 6-0-0

Discussion of Jury Process: In response to Deane Morrow, Board member, the committee engaged in a discussion of how the jury process works and his proposed motion to change it to a yes/no system, to the question of whether or not the craft is Fair-worthy. He feels that the standard of the top 10% is artificially high, and keeps many great crafts out of the Fair. Ken (a member of Craft Inventory, which holds the jury) explained how the current system works, and Lucy added historical information. This year out of over 300 applicants, 36 new and 17 returning craftspeople were approved ("returning" refers to already juried crafters submitting a new craft technique). Registration places them in booths, with one-year-only spaces offered to the top ten scorers, who are asked to share. The wait/share list was gradually whittled down in the last few years so that we would not be in the position of accepting people who would be unable to find booth space. Registration has been successful in placing all or almost all of them, but could not place many more than are already mandated.

A few more spaces will be created in the new Crafts Lot reconstruction into a loop. Craft Committee advocates increasing the number of booths at least up to the previous level of 250 before losses due to erosion, etc. Approving craftspeople without available selling space is seen as unprofessional and for the last decade or so, efforts have been made to only approve a number who will be able to find space within two years. Space has to be connected with numbers juried in, and the demand for them will likely not decrease. There is a balancing act involved in adding new artists while experiencing a finite amount of acreage and services for the growing population.

OCF is not an easy fair to enter and find space within. Professionals expect something resembling another fair, a grassy space in a civilized location perhaps. Energy would better be spent assisting craftspeople to find and build booths and adjust to the conditions required to sell.

The committee members believe that the jury process is working well, and that jurors chosen have a good concept of "Fair-worthy" as well as what constitutes a high-quality craft. The perception that there is nothing new at the Fair or that established craftspeople do not bring new work feels insulting to the artists, and it is suggested that people who hold that opinion should take a closer look. Even people who have sold for decades are still asked if it is their first year, since it is so hard to see everything at the Fair even in a weekend.

Fees: There was a brief discussion of fees, budgeting, and admission prices. Costs continue to rise, and the budget planners attempt to fairly spread the increases among the various sources of income. We will discuss this again at our September meeting before the Financial Planning meeting in mid-September.

Packet Letters: Registration has graciously agreed to send snail mail letters to those booth reps who do not list email contacts. (Craft Committee missed the deadline for submitting the letters before the

packets were mailed.)

Fire and Fireworks: There may be extreme danger this year, and fireworks are a large expense and a fire hazard, and are enjoyed by a limited number of people who are on site. The Board will likely be voting on this at the June meeting. Most of the committee members were supportive of this action. Fireproof fabrics ought to be used; raw silk won't burn, for instance.

Next meeting June 12, 2013 6:00 pm at the town office. The Craft Committee does not meet in July or August, and the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting date may be changed to another night. Tuesday Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> was proposed. This will be decided at the June meeting.